

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2012

Tedford Marlow
Chief Executive Officer
Urban Outfitters Group
5000 South Broad St
Philadelphia, PA 19112

Dear Mr. Marlow,

We recently learned of images used by *Urban Outfitters* in its St. Patrick's Day clothing line that depict severe and negative stereotypes of Irish and Irish-American people as well as may promote binge drinking. We strongly urge you to end the sale of these items.

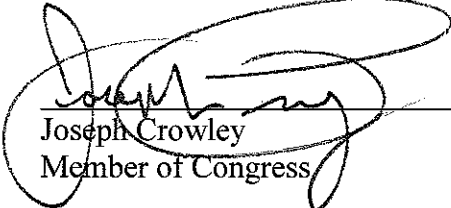
Some of the items in question are a hat which refers to "Irish Yoga" as someone throwing up, a beverage container with the words "Leprechaun (expletive)", and a T-shirt with the slogan "Irish I Were Drunk."

We understand that such items may have been created with the intent of good humor. And, as members of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, we know that Irish and Irish-Americans often revel in self-deprecating and blunt humor. However, we believe these items represent a step too far, crossing a line into stereotyping and denigration, which is why you are likely hearing from so many Irish-Americans about the matter.

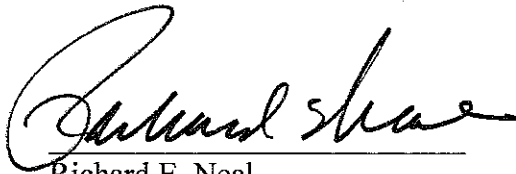
We are also concerned about what some might interpret as encouragement of binge drinking – a very serious problem affecting many of our nation's young people. According to the World Health Organization, 2.5 million people around the world die each year from alcohol-related causes. As the *New York Times* reported in August 2011, "About 2,000 alcohol-related deaths occur each year among American college students. Alcohol or drug abuse is a factor in more than a half-million injuries each year -- and also in sexual and other assaults, unsafe sex, poor academic performance and many other problems." American families understand that this is no laughing matter.

Again, we strongly urge you to review your St. Patrick's Day clothing line and consider its effects on the 35 million-strong Irish-American community, as well as its implications for binge drinking. We also hope your review results in the withdrawal from distribution and sale of the items in question.

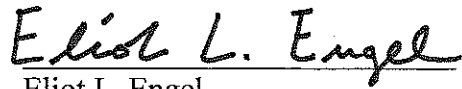
Sincerely,


Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

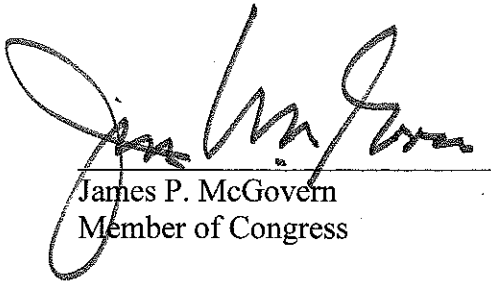

Peter T. King
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



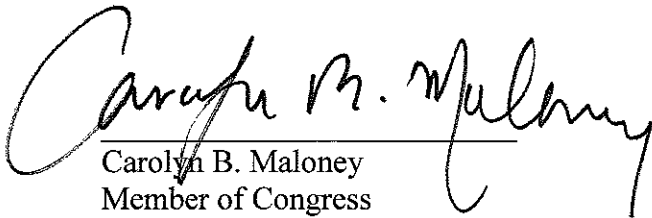
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



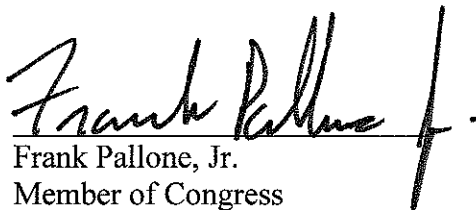
Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress